



Library of Congress

CDS Announcement

DISTRIBUTION OF SUBJECT AUTHORITY RECORDS FOR VALIDATION PURPOSES

The Library of Congress will be increasing the number of subject authority records it distributes to subscribers of CDS's MARC Distribution Service—Subject Authorities. The additional authority records will reflect *Library of Congress Subject Heading (LCSH)* strings for topics and places followed by free-floating subdivisions.

Background

Historically it has been the practice to create this type of subject authority record only when it was needed to support a reference in another subject authority record, or to authorize a heading/subdivision combination before the subdivision was declared “free-floating.” The decision to provide more subject string authority records for popular and frequently-assigned headings is intended to minimize the need for cataloging staff to devise pre-coordinated strings from scratch when assigning headings. This will also make systems more effective at automatically validating LCSH subjects. This policy change is intended to reduce the cost of subject cataloging, and is being made in response to customer requests.

Methodology for Creation

Two record creation methods will be used. One technique will involve examining bibliographic records that contain 651 subject heading fields for country names that are followed by free-floating subdivisions. The resulting sequence will be used to create a subject heading/subdivision string authority record. Another technique will be to create subject authority records for all subdivisions found in *Free-floating Subdivisions: an Alphabetical Index* that appear after valid topical and geographic headings. Record creation will initially be limited to Cataloging Policy and Support Office (CPSO) staff, and the records will not be included in the *Library of Congress Subject Headings Weekly Lists* <<http://www.loc.gov/aba/cataloging/subject/weeklylists/>>. The resulting records will nevertheless be eligible for change and enhancement by LC catalogers and SACO participants (e.g., to add 053 fields (LC Classification Number)).

Record Content

Some sample records have already been distributed for examination:

sh2007003369 Abandoned children--Bolivia--Abstracts
sh2007003373 Abnormalities, Human--Abstracts
sh2007003371 United States--Administrative and political
divisions--Bibliography
sh2007003372 United States--Administrative and political
divisions--Directories

They can be identified by the presence of 667 fields (Nonpublic general note) that include the text "Record generated for validation purposes."

CDS Product Impact

These string subject authority records will be included in the weekly MDS--Subject Authorities distribution beginning on July 9, 2007. It is anticipated that no more than a few hundred records per month will be distributed. The records will not be incorporated into *Library of Congress Subject Headings* print editions.

Questions regarding these records should be directed to:

Cataloging Policy and Support Office
email: cpso@loc.gov

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